

WORTH WHILE.

It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life flows along like a song;
But the man worth while is the one who will
smile
When everything goes dead wrong;
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praise of
earth
Is the smile that comes through tears,
It is easy enough to be prudent,
When nothing tempts you to stray;
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away;
But it's only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the honor of
earth
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife,
The world's highway is cumbered to-day;
They make up the item of life,
But the virtue that conquers passion,
And the sorrow that hides in a smile—
It is these that are worth the homage of
earth,
For we find them but once in a while.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

MY FIRST PATIENT.

BY MARC BOYEN.

I HAD been a week in my new apartment. A week—a short time—and yet it seemed like an endless succession of days, each one of which contained the dreams and hopes of an entire lifetime. For a whole week the white porcelain sign of a practicing physician had shone in splendor at the street entrance and upstairs on the glass door of my neat little flat.

For a whole week my small reception room, with its dark curtains and its straight-backed chairs, had waited for patients to avail themselves of the advice and help of "Dr. Max Erhardt."

It really did not surprise me at all that my office was empty for a few days, because, as I told myself, consolingly, the neighborhood must become familiar with the fact that it had good medical advice right here in its midst. After I had sent away my first patient completely cured, things would assuredly be different. Then—after my growing reputation had been announced to the neighborhood, or better still, to the whole city by a crowd of patients in office hours, as well as by a neat little coupe, which a dignified coachman would drive through the principal streets—then, yes, then—And so I came to the dream which occupied me most. I fancied myself again with my cousin Mary, who certainly would fit the role of a doctor's wife most delightfully.

I was in love with my little golden-haired cousin. As a boy I had shown her all those little knightly attentions which are possible from the stronger playfellow in the house and on the playground. As a junior I had dedicated to her my first poem, and as a senior I had nearly ruined my unformed baritone voice by continually singing about the "daxen-haired maiden." When I came home, after passing my first examination, the young medical student became sure that the "daxen-haired maiden" returned his love with all her heart; yet not a word was spoken.

My university course was finished. Whenever I was working unusually hard or fighting successfully the tiresome battle of a final examination, in spite of my preoccupation, my dear Mary's eyes were constantly in my thoughts and seemed to be taking the liveliest interest in the results of my efforts. When my little cousin, greeting my home-coming, whispered softly, "Doctor Erhardt," I looked deep into her dear eyes and whispered, just as softly, "Mrs. Doctor Erhardt." Then I saw a bright blush pass over her face, as she drew quickly back into the window niche.

In the following days I had opportunity to talk with Mary about all the air castles which a young physician in his empty office has abundant time to build; but I did not venture yet to discuss my dream of the future doctor's wife. There lay at times in my sweetheart's blue eyes an expression which drove the words back even when they were trembling on my lips. Not that I doubted in the least that Mary's heart belonged unconditionally to me; no, it seemed rather as if a lack of confidence in my professional ability lay in her glance, and my pride induced me to keep silent, until a report of my first independent case should call forth Mary's full approbation and unlimited confidence in my chosen vocation.

I sat in my consulting room buried in such thoughts as these on the afternoon of this dull November day. I had barely heard the timid ring with which one who begged admittance. I rose to open the door in place of the little page whom I had sent on an errand. During the few steps that I had to take, I confess that I was overwhelmed by a flood of the wildest fancies. Here was a caller who needed my help. Of course, it was an aristocratic patient, with ringing praise, and fame, and—ah, there I was again, thinking of the doctor's wife.

I opened the door. A poorly-clad woman stood before me in the dim light of the late fall day. A pair of great dark eyes looked beseechingly at me from a face thin and streaked with coal dirt.

"Doctor," she said, in a trembling voice; "oh, Doctor, be merciful, I beg you! My little Mary is so sick."

That name at once, to some extent, for the disappointment which the woman's poverty-stricken appearance had caused, for it did not harmonize with my recent dreams.

"Who are you? Who sends you to me?" I asked.

"No one sends me," replied the woman, softly and rapidly. "Oh, Doctor, do come! Ever since morning I've been carrying coal from the wagon to the next house. I live over opposite in the court. My child has been sick since yesterday, and I found her so much worse when I hurried home for a minute just now."

I hesitated somewhat, the disappointment was so great. The woman wiped with her grimy hand a face that already showed the traces of tears. She sobbed painfully.

"I suppose I ought to call in the charity doctor; but your servant is a son of the cobbler in our court, and he has told all the neighbors that you were so kind-hearted. Oh, help my little girl!"

"Well, of course, the woman must be helped. I was human, and surely knew what was due to humanity. So I went with her, after first taking out, with an importance that surprised and half-shamed me, most of the necessary instruments of a physician."

Across the street to a great court lying behind a long row of houses, up five flights, each darker and steeper than the last, through an ill-fitting door into a little chamber with a sloping ceiling and one tiny window, and there on a poor but neat bed, with feverish limbs, and wandering, unconscious eyes, lay a child about fourteen months old. The woman knelt down by the bed.

"She doesn't know me any more," she moaned.

The child coughed hoarsely. That was eroup of the worst kind. I tore a leaf from my blank-book and wrote my first real prescription.

"Go to the nearest apothecary's," I said.

She looked at me with some embarrassment. "Can't I take it to King street?" she asked.

"No, indeed," I cried. "Why do you not wish to go to the apothecary in this street?"

The woman reddened visibly in spite of the coal dirt. "I think," she stammered, "at the Eagle Pharmacy, in King street, they may know me. I carry coal there, and perhaps they will—I have no money." A large tear fell onto the paper in her hand.

"Oh, these people who can't pay for doctor or medicine either!" I said, impatiently, to myself. I took out some money and said aloud: "There, take that and hurry!"

The woman pressed her lips on the little one's hand, and then, before I could stop her, on mine, and hastened away.

I looked around the room for a seat. A poor chair, a rough box, an old table, some cheap kitchen utensils on the low, cold stove, which took the place of a range; in one corner, hanging on the wall, a threadbare woolen dress, and near it a child's gown and a little hat trimmed with a blue ribbon; on the narrow shelf near the tiny window a curled myrtle plant, a scarlet geranium, and a hymn book with bright gilt edges; that was all that the room contained.

I brought up the chair and sat down near the little sick girl. She was evidently well nourished; her little limbs were plump and shapely, the golden hair soft and curly. She breathed painfully, but she was not conscious; and her blue eyes stared straight before her, as if she were looking into a distant, unknown country. It was cold in the room. I went to the stove, but found only a few chips—too few to build a fire. So I sat down and waited for the woman and the medicine.

Again and again my glance wandered about the poverty-stricken room. A poor, hard-working woman who carried coal on the street, while her child lay sick and suffering; and yet she certainly loved her little one tenderly. Suddenly a thought shot through my mind that I should not be able to save the child; that perhaps I had not been decided enough to take on my own responsibility which would have wrested the little sufferer from death. My heart grew hot as I hurried to the door and listened for the mother's footsteps.

There she was at last. To my reproachful look she only answered, humbly: "There were so many people in the store. Folks like me must stand back."

An hour of torture passed. The medicine did no good; little Mary could not swallow it. Neither did it avail when, with trembling hand, but a steady hand, I used the knife on the slender, helpless throat. The little golden-haired girl died—died before my eyes on the lap of her stricken mother.

The woman looked up as if startled when a tear fell on to her hand, for she had not wept. "You are crying, Doctor? Oh, you must not do that. You will have to stand by so many sick beds where God sends no relief." She looked earnestly at the little body. "I loved her so. I did everything for her that I could, being so poor. When I came home from my dirty work I always found her so pretty, so loving. For hours she would lie on the bed or sit on the floor and play with almost nothing, and then she would laugh for joy when I came home. God has taken her! He loved her better than I—but oh, how lonely it will be for me!"

I pressed the poor woman's hand; I could not speak, but I laid some money on the table and went out softly. Once at home, I laid my case of instruments away, and sat down overwhelmed. I could eat no supper; I went to bed and hoped to sleep, but the picture of a dismal attic room, of a dead child, and a humble, devout woman would not let me rest, any more than the torturing recollection of my own part in that scene.

Early the next morning an old college friend came to see me as he was passing through the city. He dragged me through the crowded streets, to the museums, to all sorts of restaurants, and

complained of my lack of spirits. I pleaded a headache, and so escaped going to see a popular play at the theater. Tired and exhausted, I went at last alone to my room. As I passed a florist's brilliantly lighted windows, I stepped in and bought a costly white camellia and some fragrant violets.

I climbed the five flights to the home of the poor woman. I found the attic room unlocked. It was dimly lighted; a small coffin stood in the middle of the bare room, and the child lay there in a white shroud. The ribbon from the hat on the wall had been worked over into two little bows; a myrtle wreath rested on the fair hair, and the geranium blossoms were scattered over the body. On the table near by was a lamp, and the open hymn book was beside it.

I laid the beautiful white blossom in the stiff little hand and fastened a bunch of violets on the breast of the silent sleeper; then I looked at the open book. "I joy to depart"—the old hymn that I had learned at school and half forgotten:

"To my dear ones who grieve,
Do not mourn for me now;
This message I leave,
To God's will you must bow."

I laid the book away with a sigh. The words of the old hymn, the solemn stillness, the peaceful little child oppressed me. I went home, after inquiring about the hour of the burial.

Retired early, I was weary, and all my unrest had gone. As I called forth by a power higher than my own, the words of an earnest prayer came to my lips, of the prayer that God would bless me in my hard profession, and would change my haughty self-confidence into a humble trust in His protection, wherever my small knowledge and my faithful efforts would not avail, when I must stand, as on the day before, helpless to aid.

In the early morning I awaited the little coffin at the door of the house. A man bore it before him, and the mother followed in her poor black gown. She pressed my hand with a grateful look, when she saw that I had joined the little procession. The way was not long, the streets were almost empty, and the air was unusually mild for November. When the iron gate of the cemetery opened, the weeping woman bowed her head still lower. A young clergyman stood beside the grave. "I have un-drawn, as far as I am able, to pronounce a last blessing over all the sleepers of my congregation," he said, softly, as he met my surprised look.

That evening I went to see my relatives. I did not find the parents at home. Only Cousin Mary was there to receive me. We sat by the window where the moonlight fell on us, and then I told her of my first patient, and what I had learned from it. Mary said nothing in answer to my confession, but suddenly I felt her arms thrown around my neck. She looked at me with wet eyes. "Don't you see, Max?" she said, "now you know your self what was lacking in your preparation for work; but, thank God, it has come to you with your first patient. Now I believe that you will make a good physician who will bring help, even where his own skill does not work a cure." I kissed my dear one. "And now, what do you think?" I asked. "Have you the courage to become the wife of such a doctor?" She smiled through her happy tears. And so at last we were betrothed.

As happened, the very next day, I was called to a child that was suffering intensely with eroup, and was so happy as to be able to save it. Since then God has shown much favor to the sick and miserable through my efforts, and my work has grown ever dearer to me.

But the mother of my first patient moved into my house to be my housekeeper until my sweetheart became the doctor's wife. Even after the wedding, she remained as cook, until she died later to make still another charge, and came to nurse our little first-born daughter, Mary. She wept over our baby for joy, and in thankful remembrance of the little golden-haired girl who had found a happy home for her mother and had made a doctor worthy of his high profession. —Translated for the Independent.

Stout Hearts, These.

The heart is not always the delicate organ it is generally believed to be. Dr. William Turner records in the British Medical Journal a few cases which point to the fact that wounds of the heart are seldom, if ever, immediately fatal. A child two years old was brought to him with a sewing needle driven into its heart, and the needle was extracted without evident harm resulting to the heart of the child. Another case described is that of a soldier in whose heart a bullet was found imbedded six years after he had been wounded, he having died from quite another cause. Several instances are also given of persons living for months and years after their hearts had been terribly lacerated. Indeed, neither gunshot injuries nor penetrating wounds bring the heart at once to a standstill; so that this part of the animal organism is apparently not its most vital structure.

An Eagle as an Alarm Clock.

Mr. W. Le C. Beard, in St. Nicholas, tells of a tame eagle he had as a pet in Arizona. Mr. Beard says:

The half-breed in whose charge he had been left told us he was far better than an alarm clock, for no one could sleep through the cries with which he greeted the rising sun and his notion of breakfast time; and while an alarm would ring for only half a minute, Moses was wound up to go all day, and until he got something to eat. But his guardian treated him kindly, and Moses grew and thrived, soon putting on a handsome suit of brown and gray feathers, which he was very proud of, and spent most of his spare time in preening.

AT OLD MONTPELIER.

BEAUTIFUL HOME OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

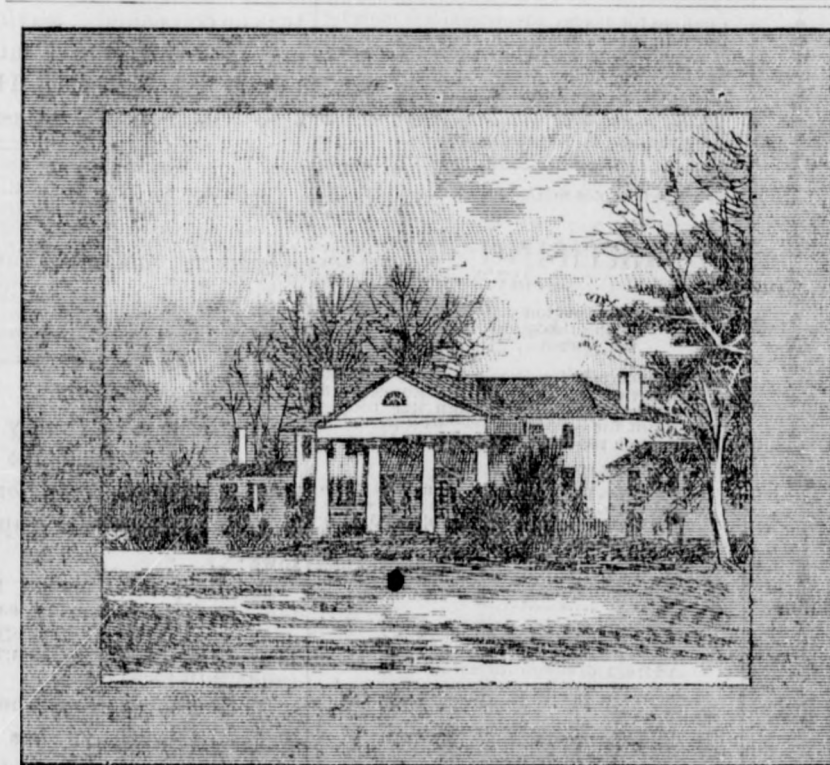
Where His Body Now Rests—The Spacious Lawns and Fine Trees That Surround the House—Madison's Experience with His Overseer.

(Special Letter.)

HERE is one spot in the United States from which can be seen the homes of four of its presidents. That spot is in Orange county, Virginia, where, standing on the summit of a little hill, one has within range of vision

Montebello, the birthplace of Zachary Taylor; Ash Lawn, the early home of Monroe; James Madison's stately Montpelier, and Monticello, the well-known home of Thomas Jefferson. The two latter are twenty miles or more apart, but Madison and Jefferson were considered neighbors at that time, when a few miles more or less made no difference, and a morning call lasted all day long. The two men were always warm friends and political associates, and there was much visiting between their homes.

Nowadays the name of Monticello is almost as familiar as that of Jefferson himself, but the home of Madison does not seem to be so well known. Montpelier stands on a slight eminence about four miles from Orange Court House, facing the long line of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance. The broad pediment portico, upheld by stately Doric columns, has on both sides the long wings of the house which give it the appearance, as it were, of "holding out open arms to welcome the coming



MONTPELIER, HOME OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

guest." One of these wings, with the gardens and offices attached to it, was devoted exclusively to the use of old Mrs. Madison, the president's mother, who lived to a great age. Here she led a quiet life, near to her children, but apart from the gay throng with which the house was often filled. The front door has acquired a quaint, old-time look from the high, pointed cornice over it. Inside the house is large and commodious, furnished plainly, but richly, and everything is arranged with a view to comfort, rather than ornament. But the especial beauty of Montpelier is its magnificent trees, many of them hoary with age, which shut the old house in with a sort of protecting tenderness from the outside world. To the right is an avenue of spruce pines, planted under the personal supervision of Madison, and not far away a grove of ancient walnut trees, under whose shade a solemn quiet reigns, and the grass is always green. Near the house is a majestic oak, which is so large that a horse placed on one side of it cannot be seen from the other. This has been critically tested by many people, among them President Hayes when he visited Montpelier, accompanied by his Cabinet, in 1878.

At one end of the avenue of pines to which we referred above, is an ice house, dug in the ground according to the Virginia fashion. Over it is a dainty little Doric temple, in which Madison often spent long summer mornings, reading or conversing with his friends. One of the traditions which the good folk of the neighborhood delight in telling is about this ice house, which was the first ever heard of in that section. The negroes could not believe their ears when ordered to fill it with ice early in the winter, and the overseer, himself filled with doubt, straightway attempted to dissuade his master from so useless an undertaking. Madison was greatly amazed at this and laughingly promised the man an ice mint julep on the next Fourth of July, in exchange for his largest turkey the following Christmas. To this the overseer willingly agreed, deeming his turkey perfectly safe. On the "Glorious Fourth" just enough ice remained in the straw to fill the compact, and Madison told the story with great glee to his friends while carving a fine, large turkey for his Christmas dinner.

During the summer months the inmates of Montpelier spent most of their time on the spacious lawn in front of the house, and often had dinner served under a large, vine-covered arbor. In one of Mrs. Madison's letters,

written on a hot July day fifty-seven years ago, she says: "Yesterday we had ninety people to dine with us, at one table, fixed under the arbor. Only a half dozen of them stayed all night, but I am less worried about a hundred guests here than twenty-five in Washington, in summer especially. I truly believe a country home is the happiest and most independent in all the world."

About a quarter of a mile from the house is the family burying ground, which is so surrounded by trees that many of the gravestones have been thrown out of line by their spreading roots. In this spot lie the remains of the fourth president of the United States, under a handsome granite shaft, on which is cut in large black letters the one word, "Madison," and the dates of his birth and death. This monument was erected by private subscription, mostly in his own county. Many years afterwards his wife's remains were removed from Washington and placed here by his side.

Over Montpelier, like the fragrance of an old-time flower, lingers the memory of Mrs. Madison. "Sweet Dolly Madison" she was called then, and it is as "Sweet Dolly Madison" that she has gone down to history.

Madison, when member of Congress from Virginia, met in Philadelphia Miss-tress Todd, a dashing widow of a brilliancy and beauty seldom equaled. On these widows! They betwined us then as they bewilder us now! Perhaps even a little more, for in reading the history of those early days one cannot but be struck with the number of widows one comes across. They held right royal sway and were undisputed belles. What became of the girls until they themselves became widows it is difficult to discover. In sooth, they seem modestly to have held back, while their widowed sisters reaped noble triumphs on the field of conquest. Of the first four presidents three—Washington, Jefferson and Madison—married



MRS. JAMES MADISON.

widows, and many others among the prominent men of that day followed the prevailing fashion. Madison's marriage to the sprightly Widow Todd took place in 1794 at Harewood, her sister's home in West Virginia. This sister had married George Steptoe Washington, nephew to George Washington. It has fallen to the lot of few women to go through as varied a career as that of Mrs. Madison. She was brought up according to the strictest rule of the Quaker church in Philadelphia, and little Dolly Payne, tripping to school in her demure Quaker bonnet and quiet drab gown, was as different from dashing Dolly Madison as if they had been two persons instead of one and the same. But the demure Quaker bonnet could not conceal the beauty and fascination beneath it, and she soon had admirers galore. She married one of these, John Todd by name, a member of the Society of Friends and a rising young lawyer, and until his death about three years later, lived the life of a sober Quaker matron. After mourning him

for some time she threw off her quiet garb and bloomed out one of the most bewitching belles of her city until she left it to go to Montpelier, as the bride of James Madison. Here she remained until Madison became Secretary of State under Jefferson, and she left her quiet country home for the gay life at the capital. Traveling then was not what it is now; steamboats were few, railroads unheard of, and a journey must needs be taken on horseback or in a coach. Mrs. Madison carried much of her household furniture with her and commanded frequent stops on the way to rest her weary horses, so the length of time it took to make the trip seems almost incredible to us of to-day.



MRS. JAMES MADISON.

In Old Age.

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WISE WORDS.

The sin of a moment may blight the whole life.

To give and grudge, is no better than not to give at all.

The prompting motive of all cheerful giving must be love.

Where there is no self-culture, there is no knowledge of true life.

Some preachers forget that sheep do not stand on their hind legs to eat. Showing our best side to others, will cause them to show their best side to us.

The only giving that is real giving, is giving that is done according to our ability.

The sun gives light to the world, and yet a comet will often attract the most attraction.

There are people who claim to be praying for the poor, who never do anything else for them.

When the preaching is aimed straight at the face of sin, how quick the hypocrite begins to dodge.

It will probably be some time before the people who blow trumpets solely to advertise themselves, are all dead.

We often pray for faith to remove mountains, when what we need is light to see that they should remain right where they are.

The real owner of a thing is the one who gets the most good out of it, not the one who may have the name of being its possessor.—Ram's Horn.

Silkworms of Lebanon.

Harry Fenn, the artist, has written a paper entitled "Silk and Cedars," for St. Nicholas, describing his visit to the famous mountains of Lebanon. Concerning the silk industry, which plays such an important part in the lives of the natives, Mr. Fenn says: As the time approaches for the silkworm to hatch out of the egg, the family move out of the house and camp under the trees, giving up the entire establishment to the worms, after having placed the eggs on shelves made of a reed like bamboo. At first the young worms are fed on finely chopped leaves, but as they grow larger the leaves need only be broken in two. The people have to feed and watch the worms night and day, or they wander in search of food and are lost; and in the silence of the night the sound of the worms feeding is like a gentle falling rain.

The worms last three or four times during this period, and about twenty-four hours is the length of each fast. A curious feature about their fast is their posture; they assume the attitude of a cobra snake about to strike, and remain rigidly fixed in that position for the entire period. When they are ready to spin, small branches are placed on the shelves, and as the cocoons are formed upon them the dead twigs seem to bear golden fruit. When the worms get through that part of the business the neighbors are called in—something as to an old-fashioned New England apple-paring bee. They call it "qat" in Arabic—that is "picking;" and soon you see piles of pale-green, pure white and golden-yellow cocoons heaped upon the floor. Later they may be spun into hanks; but usually the cocoons are sent down the mountains to Tripoli or Damascus, and after their thirty or forty days of toil, they too often have to sell the produce for next to nothing, as the Chinese are always ready to undersell them.

Another curious use Mr. Silkworm is put to is to soak him in vinegar for some hours, after which he is drawn out into so-called "catgut" to make snails or leaders for fishhooks.

Railroad Hospitals.

The Southern Railway is to erect a chain of hospitals at many points on its system for the care of those injured in its service. A strong point that has been urged in favor of the railroad hospital is to the effect that it will lessen the number of damage suits. When a person is hurt he or she will be carried immediately to the nearest hospital, and given the best of attention at the expense of the road. In this way many of the damage suits will be warded off, and those who do manage to get a verdict will receive a much less sum. Railroad hospitals for the purpose outlined are no new thing. The Plant System—and, in fact, most all the great systems throughout the country—have erected such institutions, and from all information the systems have saved many dollars, and at the same time given more efficient service to the injured. —Atlanta Constitution.

Squeezed by Sun and Moon.

A curious observation was made by Doctor Nansen during his adventurous journey toward the North Pole concerning the effects of the tides on the floating ice. The worst pressures experienced by his ship, the Fram, when enclosed in ice (except those due to high winds), occurred regularly about the time of new and full moon, the greatest being at new moon. The reason was because the tidal currents near the margin of the polar ice-fields drive the floating ice before them, and at new and full moon the tidal attraction of the sun is added to that of the moon, so that they may be said to pull together, and the effect on the sea is increased.

A Balloon Railroad.

During the summer a new kind of mountain railway is to be tried in Germany. The motive power is to be furnished by a balloon attached by cable to a rail running up the face of the Hohenstaufen Mountain, near Reichenhall, which attains a height of about 6000 feet. The excursionists will ride in a small car running on rails, and drawn by the upward pull of the balloon.

A RELIC OF THE AZTECS

VALUABLE FIND MADE IN IOWA.

Chicago Inter Ocean: A birch-bark manuscript, now being examined by the authorities of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, is likely to change the entire theory as to the origin, so far as America is concerned, of the Aztecs, held to be the original inhabitants of Mexico. Prof. Warren K. Moorehead, archeologist of the Ohio State university, and a man famous for being versed in Aztec lore and knowledge, makes in this article the first accurate statement and the only one regarding the manuscript, which was discovered by the student of the Iowa, Des Moines, in 1890.

Despite his learning regarding the hieroglyphics in which the Aztecs transmitted their history from generation to generation, Prof. Moorehead has been unable to decipher the inscription on the bark, upon the birch bark. For this reason he forwarded the manuscript to the Smithsonian Institution. The results of the examination by the experts there will be far more important than might be thought at first consideration. Unquestionably it is the first genuine Aztec manuscript ever unearthed within the borders of the United States.

Prof. Moorehead says, over his own signature, there is small doubt of its genuineness. It has long been held that the Aztecs inhabited the portions of this country as early as, if not before, their advent to Mexico. This find and the ancient appearance of the hieroglyphics, as compared with those even many centuries old, seem to give strong color to the belief regarding the United States. Prof. Moorehead states succinctly in the following, which is from his own pen, the status of the find from an archeological standpoint.

"To the Editor: The Ohio State Archeological and Historical society of Columbus received, early in February, a most remarkable find, a birch-bark manuscript, a laboring man of Fairfield, Iowa, while excavating for the water works, brought to light what was apparently a chunk of wood, except that its surface was encased with a coating of pitch. The object was found about three feet below the surface. Its dimensions are something over a foot in length, by eight inches, and five or six inches thick. Out of curiosity the workman struck it a blow with a hatch, causing it to split open, revealing a space in the center, in which lay a roll of birch bark, covered on one side with strange hieroglyphics.

"The workman was intelligent enough to know that the find was of some value and taking it to his home carefully spread out the manuscript and encased it between glass in a frame. The matter was brought to the attention of Miss Emma Clark of Fairfield, who had heard of the museum at Columbus, and she wrote there the following day in all its details. I concluded that the find was certainly worth examining and persuaded Miss Clark to send the wooden receptacle and manuscript for my inspection.

"The bark is extremely thin and its natural color is well preserved. This is due to the fact that it was sealed airtight. The edges are torn and broken and there is every evidence that a part of it is missing. I had further examinations made, but there were no more fragments or relics of any description, and the workman positively asserted that the manuscript was found in the box in a fragmentary condition and that he had sealed between glass all that he had found of it.

"The wood is of oak and shows marks on the end of having been rudely hewn with stone axes. With the manuscript were received letters from prominent citizens, testifying as to the character of the workman, and a letter from the editor of the Ledger, the county paper published at Fairfield, states 'Griffith is a laboring man of about average intelligence and information, and would have neither the ability nor the knowledge to mislead anybody as to the circumstances. Nor is there any practical joker in this vicinity who would have the knowledge to execute a plan like this and keep quiet about it. Nor has there been the least sufficient in matters of this kind in the community to furnish such people basis for work.'

"A tree some fifty or sixty years old grew directly over the spot, the hollow log or wood being found under its roots. The gum or wax which not only fastened the pieces together, but made the characters practically water and airtight, had been evenly distributed by turning the block over a fire. This was plain, because the block was not only covered with wax, but was also slightly charred. The characters are written in red, evidently the juice of some plant. The work is neat.

"After a careful examination I decided that I could not read the characters, and furthermore, that no one could read them, that a great deal had been published on Aztec and Maya manuscripts, but that no one could read them, and that one-half the archeologists who claimed to read them gave different translations of the same manuscript. The characters are manifestly Aztec or Maya, and were made, I think, by some of the highly cultured tribes of Mexico or Yucatan.

"A party, for some unknown reason, set out north, carrying this little box, and on the way, it was broken, and the characters either through sickness or war, buried the manuscript at the point where it was found. It is not at all probable that the whole thing is a hoax, for if it was a 'fake' we must account for the knowledge on the part of the workman who found it of Aztec and Maya glyphs, which is not in the least probable. There are very few men in this country who know anything about these hieroglyphics, and it would be impossible for any one in Fairfield to make them unless he had a work at hand containing plates of the Maya hieroglyphics. There are only a few such books in existence, and they are very high priced.

"The characters are not Indian. For instance, take the grotesque human figure, shown in the middle section, around which is the sun symbol. The sun symbol, with the character in the left-hand upper corner of this middle section, and all the characters in the upper piece, are very like those upon the tablets of Central American ruins, and to the four manuscripts or books preserved in the European museum. Combinations of straight lines and dots are strong proof of the Southern origin of the manuscript. There have been several fraudulent sculptures found in the United States, but they are all totally different from this and do not appear aboriginal in either concept or execution.

"Curator Department of Archaeology, Ohio State University."

The most generally accepted belief concerning the Aztecs has been that they came from some portion of Asia. It is supposed they made their advent into Mexico about the year 1130, for from that time, or soon after, their history seems to have been intertwined with that of the Toltecs, a race of people who seem to have left records of history before the Aztecs began to make evidence of their existence. The latter are declared by archeologists to have antedated the Toltecs in point of residence in Mexico.

Owing to the innumerable which has enshrouded the origin of this remarkable people, there has been any amount of discussion and controversy among scientists learned in archeology as to the origin of the Aztecs. While the belief previously stated, that this race had its birth in Asia, was widely cherished, there were many who differed from the statement that it was immediately from Asia. These scientists held that no matter where this people came from in the first place, they had, previous to entering the borders of Mexico, found residence in other portions of the North American continent.

